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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
Field Service Branch
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ACA FARM NEWS

NO. 182

MILLIONS ARE STARVING

Difficult and fateful decisions must be made by the combined food board--representing the United States, Great Britain, and Canada--in dividing during the next few weeks an estimated 13 million tons of wheat and other food grains available for the first half of 1946 among hunger-ridden countries who say they need at least 20 million tons to prevent death for many of their peoples.

While the official representatives are doing their utmost to distribute equitably what there is, Americans, led by their President, are making strenuous efforts to make more and more American food available for export.

"As your president," Mr. Turman has said, " I appeal to you again--and to all Americans everywhere--to prove your faith and your belief in the teachings of God by doing your share to save the starving millions in Europe and Asia and Africa. Share your food by eating less and prevent millions from dying of starvation. Reduce your abundance so that others may have a crust of bread."

In New Mexico, State PMA Director C. V. Hemphill and county ACA chairmen have been designated as emergency food conservation program managers. These food conservation managers, working with other government and civic representatives, are charged with carrying the message of the need for food overseas to New Mexicans and developing practical plans for increasing both conservation and production in their localities.

For the whole of New Mexico, the USDA Council, working with Mr. Hemphill, has gone all out in urging increased conservation, an intensified fats

collection drive, and greater home food production.

New Mexico Extension Director A. B. Fite, of the A. and M. College, has called on the State's 55,198 victory gardeners of last year to keep going in '46 and produce food that will not only improve their own nutritional standards but make more food available for near-starving people overseas.

Mr. Fite pointed to recent statements by the President and the Secretary of Agriculture as evidence of the seriousness with which the Federal Government regards the situation and of the importance of continued food production. He added that without home gardens during the war years, it would have been impossible for the American people to have been better fed than before the war, while at the same time supplying the best-fed fighting forces in the world, and providing essential food supplies to our allies.

To implement the home food production program in New Mexico, the Extension Service has employed L. C. Gibbs of Clayton as the first full-time horticulturist since 1941 when military service demands,depleted the ranks of college personnel. Mr. Gibbs states that it's not too late now, even in the southern part of the State, to plant such vegetables as cabbage, beets, lettuce, onions, peas, potatoes and turnips.

To help New Mexico gardeners, there are available from county agents' offices and the college, two garden publications. "Grow Your Own Vegetables" tells just what should be planted in different vegetables for a family of five, seed or plants required for each 100 feet of row, planting dates, depths and distances, approximate yields, and insect control. Mr. Gibbs urges every gardener to get one of these folders. More detailed information on these same subjects can be obtained from Extension Circular No. 142, "Growing a Home Garden in New Mexico."

(MORE)

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF FEED SITUATION

Here's a brief explanation of why the feed situation is tight:

(1) The combined stocks of corn, oats and barley on January 1 per animal unit were 2 percent smaller than a year earlier, but there was substantially more livestock in the corn-barley surplus-producing areas. Consequently, smaller quantities of these grains are available for deficit-feed areas.

(2) High rates of feeding, caused by favorable livestock-feed price ratios, have dipped into feed supplies at a fast pace. Hog marketing weights have averaged 20 pounds heavier than a year ago — heavier than any year on record; an unusual proportion of high-quality steers have been marketed; milk cows have been fed large quantities of concentrates; hens have been fed to high production records; and turkeys and chicken broilers have been fed to record weights. The demands for mixed feeds and grain for non-feed purposes have further complicated the picture.

GOOD FOOD COMES FROM GOOD SOIL

N. E. Dodd, Director of the Field Service Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration, recently told the Associated Women of the American Farm Bureau Federation that research work is finding a definite relationship between the content of the soil and the food grown from the soil. "The research job is not yet completed but enough has been done to indicate to me that if we want good nutritious food we must look to our soils," he explained. "That's why the first job in good nutrition for our people is up to the folks who farm the land....If we don't care for the soil, we will not be getting the full value from our food. Soil conservation and good nutrition go together."

(MORE)

BOWLES SAYS SUBSIDIES VITAL TO STABILIZATION

Unless food subsidies are continued beyond June 30, the stabilization of our economy is completely impossible, according to the Economic Stabilizer, Chester Bowles.

"If subsidies were to be removed on July 1st when our present authorization runs out, food prices would promptly move upward 8 percent," he told a farm conference at Topeka, Kansas. "This would be a severe blow to millions of families living in the cities on narrow incomes. It would bring about widespread demands for wage increases and very probably the collapse of our wage stabilization program. And let's not forget that would not add a single penny to the income of our farmers. On the contrary, as wages moved higher, manufacturing costs would again move upward, and so would the prices of things you buy in the store. The increase in the cost of products and services would leave our farmers considerably worse off than they are today."

FARM NEWS SHORTS

At present levels, U. S. civilians will eat 10 to 12 percent more food than before the war, and about the same as last year. These estimates will be reduced to the extent that the conservation program is effective.

The world bread crisis will not end this year. Alarm is felt for the 1946-47 year since reserve stocks of grain will be at a minimum.

Since a substantial proportion of this country's supplies of sugar and large quantities of fats and oils are normally imported, the destruction of the major producing areas during the war is the basic cause of the severe shortage here, as well as in the rest of the world.

A teaspoon of fat a day saved by every man, woman and school child in the U. S. will mean a total saving of at least one million pounds of fat a day.

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